

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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R 220917Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1832

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 9897

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, JA, UR

SUBJ: TENG HSIAO-PING'S COMMENTS TO JAPANESE JOURNALISTS

CINCPACTALSO FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: IN TALKS WITH JAPANESE JOURNALISTS, PRC DEP PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING DOWNPLAYED SOVIET ANGLE OF "ANTI-HEGEMONY" PRINCIPLE AND STRESSED BROADER APPLICABILITY OF CLAUSE.

TENG AND PM MIKI SEEM TO BE

GROPING FOR FORMULATION OR AT LEAST CREATING ATMOSPHERE WHICH WOULD PERMIT CONSTRUCTIVE NEW NEGOTIATIONS ON HEGEMONY ISSUE. IN DISCUSSING RESTORATION OF TAIWAN AIRLINK, TENG GINGERLY DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN JAPAN'S LEADERS AND THOSE WHO SOUGHT TO MAINTAIN TIES WITH TAIWAN, BUT REMINDED JAPAN THAT 1972 COMMUNIQUE MUST STILL BE BASIS OF SINO-JAPAN RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. PRC VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE TO GROUP OF VISITING JAPANESE JOURNALISTS JULY 21 THAT JAPAN WOULD EVENTUALLY AGREE TO INCLUSION OF "ANTI-HEGEMONY" DECLARATION IN PEACE/FRIENDSHIP TREATY (PFT) WHEN MEANING WAS FULLY UNDERSTOOD IN TOKYO. IN MEANTIME, PEKING WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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PATIENT AND WOULD NOT PERMIT MINOR DISAGREEMENTS TO DISTURB

SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO PROMINENTLY PRINTED PRESS REPORTS, TENG CITED FOUR REASONS FOR INCORPORATING "ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE": A) SINCE US SUBSCRIBED TO "ANTI-HEGEMONY" PRINCIPLE IN SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, US WOULD NOT BE IRRITATED IF CLAUSE IN JAPAN-PRC PFT. B) PRC IS ALSO INCLUDED IN AND RESTRAINED BY TREATY: THOSE WHO FEAR CHINESE EXPANSIONISM CAN REST ASSURED. C) C) CLEAR EXPRESSION OF "ANTI-HEGEMONISM BY JAPAN WILL ASSIST IN RECOVERY OF NORTHERN TERRITORIES. (JAPAN TIMES ADDED THAT TENG SAID CHINESE FLAG WOULD NOT ASSIST JAPAN IN RECOVERY OF NORTHERN TERRITORIES.) D) JAPAN'S AGREEMENT TO "ANTI-HEGEMONY" WILL ALLAY FEARS IN SE ASIA OF JAPAN'S "ECONOMIC ANIMALISM".

2. PRESS ALSO REPORTED TENG'S DESCRIPTION OF THOSE IN JAPAN WHO OPPOSE "ANTI-HEGEMONY" AS A) THOSE WHO ESPOUSE REMILITARIZING JAPAN: B) THOSE WHO FEAR OFFENDING SOVIET: AND C) THOSE WHO WISH TO PLAY "CHEAP DIPLOMATIC TRICKS", USING "BALANCED DIPLOMACY" TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SINO-SOVIET RIVALRY.

3. COMMENTING ON RESTORATION OF AIRLINK WITH TAIWAN, TENG, ACCORDING TO YOMIURI, SAID MOVE NOT MOTIVATED BY JAPAN'S APPROVAL OF CHIANG CHING-KUO OR SUN-IN-BLUE-SKY FLAG OF TAIWAN. DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID, MERELY SHOWED DESIRE OF SOME JAPANESE TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH THE TERRITORY CALLED TAIWAN. JAPAN TIMES VERSION ON THIS POINT WAS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT, SAYING THAT MOVE WAS NOT FOR LOVE OF TAIWAN OR TAIWAN'S LEADERS BUT BECAUSE OF SOME JAPANESE' DESIGNS ON THE LAND OF TAIWAN ITSELF. JAPAN TIMES ALSO QUOTED TENG AS SAYING AN ATTEMPT TO SCRAP THE OHIRA STATEMENT WOULD "CREATE A PROBLEM", THEN ADDED MILDLY THAT THERE WERE RIGHTISTS IN JAPAN WHO HOPED TO NULLIFY OHIRA'S STATEMENT.

4. COMMENT: TENG'S SOOTHING REMARKS PROVIDE BROADER INTERPRETATION OF HEGEMONY CLAUSE MORE IN LINE WITH UNIVERSALLY APPLICABLE DEFINITION PRIME MINISTER MIKI HAS BEEN PUSHING LATELY. FOLLOWING WASHINGTON VISIT, MIKE, HIS RIGHT FLANK PROTECTED BY AIR AGREEMENT WITH TAIWAN, WILL REPORTEDLY MOVE STRENUOUSLY TO RESOLVE HEGEMONY ISSUE AND CONCLUDE PFT. UNLESS STORIES FROM PEKING ARE PURE WISHFUL REPORTING, TENG SEEMS TO BE TRYING TO

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IMPROVE THE ATMOSPHERE AND SET SCENE FOR NEW ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS.
HODGSON

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